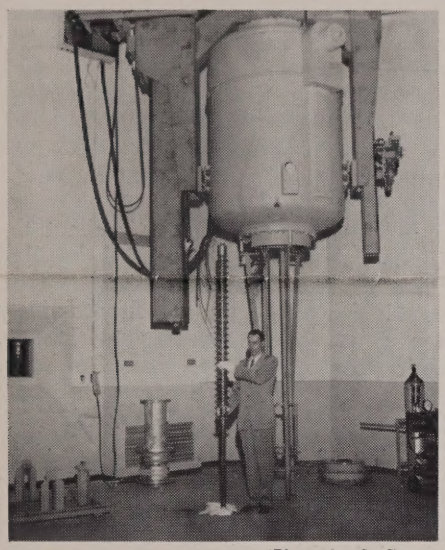
THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

VOLUME VIII, NO. 4 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS APRIL, 1954



(Photo by J. Coyne)

ANY DAY NOW our 2 million volt x-ray machine will be completely installed and ready for testing. Pictured here is Mr. Thornton Struss, General Electric serviceman, holding the nine-foot x-ray tube that will shortly be inserted within the transformer of the machine.

DEACONESS GRADUATE WINS AWARD

We are proud to reprint the following essay written by Miss Nancy Hero, '54. Miss Hero's paper received honorable mention in a national contest sponsored by the Chicago Medical Book Company.

"The Satisfactions in Being a Nurse"

Accepting a challenge and accomplishing your purpose is always gratifying. Nursing holds many challenges. In many other vocations it may be the desire for a better position which makes a person do his best in his present work. In nursing it is more than this. A nurse must always be at her best in order to live up to the trust that is placed in her. The patients have confidence in her judgment, her knowledge, her ability to care for them, and in her having a conscious concern for their safety. How very satisfying to answer the challenge of such trust.

There is a type of satisfaction which does not seem to be merely the result of

(Continued on Page 4)

A TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We wish we had the space to honor each of our loyal, dedicated volunteers individually. With their willingness to be of such unselfish service to others, they bring thousands of hours of comfort and cheer to patients and contribute immeasurably to the hospital's progress. There are now more than 150 regular volunteers devoting time and energy to these unpaid jobs.

Volunteers are not just a pair of hands, but are individuals with particular skills and talents; most of the volunteers are housewives, often with professional careers as a background; many have home responsibilities and young children, and contribute time to the hospital at considerable sacrifice; some are business women who give evening time. There is an opportunity for service by male volunteers, such as the retired business man who has recently joined the volunteer corps.

The Director of Volunteers ascertains their training and experience and assigns the volunteers to jobs that utilize their talents to the fullest. In every duty they perform, the volunteers are conscientious, dependable and a credit to the hospital.

In addition to the volunteers we see daily in the Coffee, Flower, and Thrift Shops, there are countless others working behind the scenes, both day and night — working as ward aides, Deaconess aides, Red Cross grey ladies and nurses aides, surgical dressing, library service and courtesy cart assistants, diversional occupational therapists, assistants in the tumor clinic and blood bank, secretarial and clerical workers. They provide the little things that count — a glass of water, an encouraging word, an act of kindness, a friendly smile — the "extras" that brighten up the patient's day. Volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of work to the hospital last year. To all of them we owe a debt of gratitude.

Congratulations go to Gwendolyn Bissell, '56, who was recently elected president of the Massachusetts Pilgrim Fellowship, the young people's group of 601 Congregational churches in the state.

DR. HERBERT GEZORK

The President of Andover Newton Theological School, Dr. Herbert Gezork, will address the fifty-sixth graduating class of the Deaconess School of Nursing at John Hancock Hall on May eighteenth. Born and educated in Germany, Dr. Gezork is a graduate of the University of Berlin and the Baptist Divinity School in Hamburg. He was an exchange student to America from 1928 to 1930 and traveled around the world, studying social and religious conditions.

In 1936 Dr. Gezork came to this country as a voluntary exile and later became an American citizen. Before assuming his duties as president of Andover Newton Theological School, he taught Social Ethics there and at Wellesley College.

DEACONESS NIGHT AT POPS

Once again the Friends of the Deaconess are sponsoring a benefit concert at Pops to raise money for the Nurses' Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Richard S. Paige, assisted by other members of the Friends, is planning the affair. This year the concert will be held on May twelfth, an especially appropriate day. It is National Hospital Day, the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, whose pioneer service led to the improvement of hospital care.

THE PULSE

APRIL, 1954

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL
Boston 15, Massachusetts

NURSES ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miss Lois Thomas, head nurse, Deaconess II, and Miss Phyllis Roberts, head nurse, Baker IV, took off from Logan Airport on Sunday morning, April twenty-fifth, for Chicago, where they attended the annual convention of the American Nurses' Association.

Representatives from the four corners of the globe met at the week-long convention to discuss nursing problems and develop new ideas on curriculum and patient care. Miss Thomas represented the New England Deaconess Hospital, and Miss Roberts, who is president of the Alumnae Association of NEDH, was sent on behalf of the Alumnae.

Three students, Janice Swanson, '54, Betty Gamble, '54, and Alyce Baxter, '54, attended the convention as representatives of the Nursing School.

One out of every sixty of the nation's workers are employed in hospitals.

BOWLING BANQUET

The Bowling League will celebrate the completion of a successful season with a banquet at Blinstrub's Village on May 19th at seven o'clock. At this time trophies will be awarded. All members are invited to attend. Please see your team captain regarding reservations.

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL BOWLING LEAGUE

April 28, 1954 — Final Session

Team		*Points*
3	Mr. Sabine	72
4	Mr. Emery	63
6	Mr. Fisher	61
9	Mr. Spalding	61
5	Miss Nihadrt	60
10	Mr. Bettinelli	58
1	Dr. Cook	57
8	Mr. Lowry	56
7	Miss Hankinson	54
2	Miss Newton	37

High Singles for April 28, 1954

Jean Gordon	108
Hugh McFarland	117

High Singles for the Year

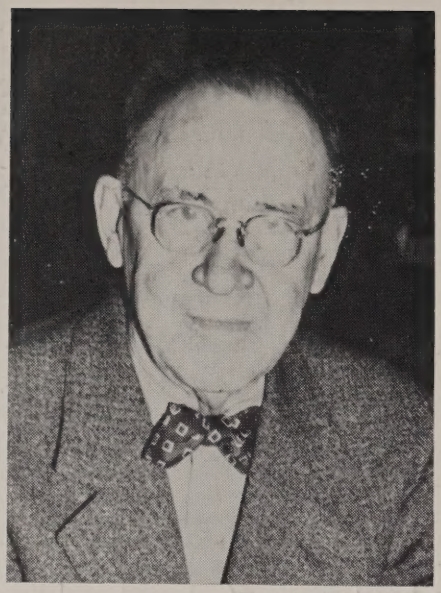
Jean Gordon	133
Don Lowry	142

High Three-String Totals for the Year

Jean Gordon	315
Don Lowry	351

High Average for the Year

Jean Gordon	94
Charles Schraub	97



(Photo by W. C. Fisher)

THE MODEST MINSTREL

If you should pass by the Purchasing Department's new storeroom and hear strains of "Changing Partners," you can be sure that it's John P. (for Philip) Keefe adding a musical note to his daily activity. A veteran performer and a modest one, Johnny says that "he has been singing since the day he was born."

During his school days at Father Scully Parochial School in Cambridge, Johnny often sang at three or four charity shows a night. At the age of sixteen he earned his first money as an entertainer by singing at a benefit.

In the days before motion pictures became popular, Johnny and a partner, billed as Keefe and Coughlin, sang on the stage of the Old Boston Theater. When movies made their debut at the Comique Theatre on Scollay Square, Johnny had an important role. The early pictures were very shaky and it was necessary to interrupt one or two reelers in order to protect the viewer's eyes. At this point in the program, Johnny sang two songs. Then, on with the show again.

Johnny got his start in vaudeville at the Day Theatre in Somerville. He and two others formed the trio of Keefe, Langton, and White, with Johnny as tenor, and broke in their act around Boston. From there they went on to New York, playing successful engagements at College Inn and Bedford Rest. For a time they traveled the Keith and Loew circuits.

Back in his vaudeville days, Johnny met many who later became well known stars. At one time he was on the same bill with the Avon Comedy Four, whose group included comedians Smith and Dale. Another was Fred Allen, who began his career as a juggler. Johnny was also on the same bill with Will Rogers when Will first broke into show business.

When the trio broke up their act, Johnny returned to Boston and worked as a song plugger for Leo Feist, Publishers. During the First World War he sold Liberty Bonds on the Boston Common.

Finally, when the depression hit, Johnny started work at the Deaconess. He says he "never did a lick of work" until he came here, for "who can call singing work?" A practical fellow, Johnny went into show business solely for the money.

Mrs. Keefe, the former Anne Keatley, grew up in Johnny's neighborhood. She herself was never in show business but is very proud of her husband's talents.

Johnny is very enthusiastic about the Golden Age Club, sponsored by Red Feather. They put on a show once a month for people in the fifty-to-ninety age group, and according to Johnny, their shows are better than Godfrey's. These shows give him an opportunity for a regular get-together with "the old gang."

Johnny, happy in his work at the Deaconess, has fond memories of "the good old days" and of the role he played in the vaudeville era.

NEW HEALTH COORDINATOR

The hospital extends a cordial welcome to Mrs. Margaret Bradley Holmes, who has been appointed Health Coordinator to succeed Mrs. Irene Quinn. Mrs. Holmes is a graduate of Boston City Hospital, School of Nursing. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health Nursing from Simmons College and is currently studying for a Master's degree at Boston University. Her previous experience includes work with the Visiting Nurse Association in Boston and Waltham

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

Your job and what it means to the community will be publicized throughout the nation from May ninth to May fifteenth. Back in 1921, leaders in the health field recognized the need to familiarize the public with the work of hospitals and initiated National Hospital Day, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. By World War II, National Hospital Day had become an international celebration, and recently it developed from a day to week observance.

"Your Hospital — ON GUARD For You" is the theme of Hospital Week, when all hospitals will make a concerted effort to increase public awareness of the services they provide, while constantly standing *on guard* for all, wherever there is medical need.

CENTRAL SUPPLY IN REVIEW

Our Central Supply has just observed its first anniversary. This department moved into its new home on March 15, 1953, and as promptly took over the unfamiliar role of mass production of floor goods as well as Surgery supplies and general autoclaving functions. Let's look at its record.

Its first achievement is the production of a work load equal to and in most cases far greater than the work loads being performed in other Greater Boston hospitals of comparable size. This is the only Central Supply in Greater Boston which is handling all usual duties for Central Supply — as well as oxygen, orthopedic equipment, and I.V. sets. Our Central Supply also does the actual setting up of sterile trays for the X-ray Department.

Its second achievement is 24-hour coverage with two deliveries each weekday, and the recent expansion of its Sunday service to include one delivery of essential items. This is a record much envied by other institutions.

Interesting Tallies

We asked a few definite questions and came up with some amazing answers:

Syringes? In the last three months, this CSR has issued 69,702 syringes to the floors alone; 15,291 to the Solution Room; and 2,113 individually wrapped syringes to the Operating Room. This means the CSR must process and autoclave at least two thousand syringes each day just to meet the requirements of these three departments.

Needles? This is substantially the same picture with a slight increase in the total figures — O. R., 2,746, and the floors, 69,828. A daily load of 2,500 needles is required to keep even a slight reserve on hand. One of our real problems has been the length of time required to sort and pack the number of sizes and styles of needles in use throughout the hospital. The floors have been most cooperative in our effort to eliminate some of the infrequently used sizes and styles. Our new needle cleaner has speeded up processing to a great degree, and we hope that the new system for dispensing needles in glassine envelopes will mean enough saving of labor time to end the rest of our worries on needles.

Gloves? To maintain glove supplies, we must dry, turn, test, powder, sort, package, label, autoclave and cool at least three hundred pairs per day. The Laundry, bless them, takes excellent care of the washing of gloves.

Sponges? On 3 x 3 sponges alone the floors have used 118,454 in these three months

(Photo by Rittase)

VIEW OF CENTRAL SUPPLY AT WORK. Left to right are Mrs. Dorothy Palmer, Mrs. Helen Winslow, Mrs. Jean Christie, Supervisor, and Mrs. Greta Becknell.

Trays? We do 68 types of mixed-tray setups — from the simple Catheter tray to the highly complex Aortography set.

Progress Through Simplification

Work Simplification? The list of changes made with work simplification as a goal seems endless, but here are just a few:

1. The raising of the glove conditioner on a platform to eliminate the tiresome stooping previously necessary.
2. The use of tape as a sealing and labeling device for small articles rather than string and tags.
3. The work-up of a totally different technique in the use of our syringe washer which allows us to wash 750 syringes in one basket as compared to the previous total of 150, and gives us a far more effective rinsing technique. (We understand this is now known even in Chicago and points west as the "Deaconess Technique.")

Biggest problem? The incredible disappearance of floor instrument sets!

Biggest surprise? When the telephone rings and it is some other Central Supply supervisor asking questions about her own problems or comparing notes on our procedures. This morning, for instance, we have already had a call on our glove procedure, another call about our proposed new catheter tray (how did they hear about it?) a call wanting advice on syringe washers, and a visit and a conference with a representative of one of our suppliers and an architect who came to inspect our CSR layout — that's a pretty busy morning!

There are just two things we're sure of — one is that with all the new products and new systems constantly appearing on the market, this could never get to be a dull routine; there will always be questions and always be changes. Secondly, the hospital is getting a tremendous amount of service from the Central Supply. These CSR aides deserve a lot of appreciation.

TWENTY-FIFTH REUNION

The hospital is looking forward to seeing many old friends when the Class of 1929 of the School of Nursing holds its gala reunion here on May twenty-first. Everyone will meet at Joslin Auditorium where they will be welcomed by Mr. Lowry and Miss Newton. Plans for the afternoon include the showing of pictures of graduates and their children, followed by a tour of the Central Building and Cancer Research Institute. We are sure that those who have not visited the hospital in recent years will be amazed at the many changes that have taken place. The Nursing Department is planning a tea in Harris Hall in honor of the occasion. Here the former graduates will have an opportunity to meet with the doctors who taught them when they were in training. The climax of the reunion will be a dinner at Longwood Towers.

AWARD

(Continued from Page 1)

accomplishment. It does not require great skill to give a back rub or to make most people comfortable. Yet it is so very rewarding to leave a patient resting quietly who had been fretful and uncomfortable, or to leave the hospital, especially after an evening's work, feeling that the patients are content and will sleep well during that night. This satisfaction may be the result of having been able to answer their requests and to do those things which sick people especially appreciate; for Jesus said, "As much as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." As long as we are serving Him, our reward is rich.

If there is satisfaction from attaining skill in some new way or from learning, then each day in nursing is overflowing with satisfaction. There is always more to be known about a particular disease, or a new drug or treatment. Few days go by when I do not do or see something I had never done or seen before. There is so much to learn about people themselves. Nurses come in contact with every type of personality. Learning to understand them and to meet their individual emotional and spiritual needs is truly rewarding. No nurse will ever see the day when at last she has learned everything about her work.

Nurses are entrusted with a great deal of responsibility. As each new responsibility is accepted and adequately carried out, there follows an increase in poise, in self-respect, and in respect from others; and there is found more and more satisfaction in working.

Teaching, which is in itself very satisfying, is an important part of nursing. There are many who must learn to adjust to some new change in their lives. It may be the loss of a limb, the necessity for taking a daily injection, or accepting restrictions in activity or in diet for a long period of time. Any of these is difficult to accept, and the future happiness of these patients may depend on the encouragement and understanding which they receive in the hospital. Whether a nurse is showing someone how to take insulin or how to do an irrigation, besides knowing that she is helping the patient to adjust to this new experience, she is able also to share in his feeling of accomplishment as he learns to do the procedure well.

The satisfactions in being a nurse have filled the history of nursing with great women who dedicated their lives to this work. Their source of deepest satisfaction is now ours, and it can never change because of what nursing is — caring for those who are sick.

HELP WANTED!

Perhaps you have a friend who would like to do volunteer work at the Deaconess. With the many types of volunteer jobs available, there would be one adaptable to your friend's individual talents, capabilities and interests. Perhaps you know a high school boy or girl who would like to volunteer in the messenger corps or the Coffee Shop during the summer vacation.

You would be helping the Deaconess by asking these people to contact Mrs. Grace Blanchard, Director of Volunteers.

Miss Elizabeth Rooney of the Chemistry Laboratory was recently elected treasurer of the Greater Boston Medical Technologists Association at the annual meeting held at the Children's Medical Center.

Miss Margaret Burns, Supervisor of Surgery, has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the Army Nurse Corps Reserve, Unit 373rd General Hospital, Boston Army Base.

BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Creedon (Rita Lepine) announced the birth of their daughter, Dona Marie, on April fourth. Mrs. Creedon was formerly assistant head nurse on Palmer II and later was with the Joslin office in Boston.

Mrs. Deborah Pierik (nee Thomas), '53, gave birth to a baby daughter on April sixth.

ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement of Miss Catherine Louise Mays, a head nurse, on Deaconess IV to Rev. Robert W. Sterling was announced recently. An August wedding is planned.

On June second Miss Helen Munro Nease of the nursing staff will be wed to Robert W. Bradley. The ceremony will take place at the Wollaston Church of the Nazarene.

Miss Yvonne Marie Lagerquist, '49, will become the bride of William Patterson Crockett this summer. Mr. Crockett attended the University of Montana.

WEDDINGS

Miss Olive Louise Brown, '54, recently was wed to Mr. George Daily of Plattsburg, New York. Her brother, Rev. Charles Brown, Jr., performed the ceremony.

There were wedding bells on April 19th for Miss Carol R. Maxham, '54, and her groom, Charles S. Whittall, who were married at the Woodstock Congregational Church in Woodstock, Vermont.

Miss Doris Eleanor Nicoll, staff nurse on Palmer II, became the bride of Louis Bach Hayer on March twentieth. Mr. Hayer is now attending B. U. School of Theology.

Miss Joan A. Berry, assistant instructor of the School of Nursing, was married on April tenth to Richard A. Skinner. Mr. Skinner is the New York manager for the Welch Company.

(Photo by W. C. Fisher)

PICTURED AT A TEA given for the Friends of the Deaconess by the Nursing Department are (left to right) Mrs. Eugene H. Mather, Mrs. John Wesley Lord, Mrs. F. Gorham Brigham, and Miss Ellen Howland, Assistant Director of the School of Nursing.